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NORTH CAROLINA



COOPERATIVE CROP REPORTING SERVICE

No. 17

Raleigh, N. C.

QUESTIONS PERTINENT TO THIS ISSUE

1. WHAT IS THE INDICATED WHEAT PRODUCTION IN N. C.?
2. WHAT ARE THE PROSPECTS FOR THE 1948 PEACH CROP?
3. WHAT IS THE INDICATED IRISH POTATO YIELD FOR 1948?
4. HOW DO CHICK HATCHINGS IN 1948 COMPARE WITH 1947?
5. HOW MUCH MILK WAS PRODUCED ON N.C. FARMS IN MAY?
6. DID THE INDEX OF PRICES RECEIVED RISE IN MAY?
7. DID FEED PRICES INCREASE OR DECREASE IN MAY?
8. DID EGG PRODUCTION IN MAY 1948 EXCEED MAY 1947?
9. WHAT WAS CONDITION OF N. C. PASTURES AS OF JUNE 1?
10. HOW MANY EGGS DID THE AVERAGE HEN LAY IN MAY?

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

June 15, 1948

JUNE 1, 1948 GENERAL FARM REPORT

WHEAT CROP IMPROVED

Timely rains together with favorable growing conditions greatly improved the state's wheat crop during May. Prospects now point to a crop of 6,987,000 bushels. Although this is 822,000 bushels above the estimate a month ago it is still 27 percent smaller than the near record crop harvested last year but 6 percent above the 10-year average production. The indicated yield of 17 bushels per acre is the same as that of last year. Therefore, the smaller production this year is primarily attributed to the reduced acreage, due to the unfavorable weather during the seeding season.

The crop is reported to be in good condition although considerable variation in plant development exists between fields in some areas. Fall sown wheat is mature in some scattered sections of the state and harvest which has already begun will become more active as soon as weather permits.

OATS CROP SHORT

Although weather conditions during May improved the oats crop, lateness in seeding and adverse weather last fall resulted in relatively poor stands. Weather conditions during April and part of May also caused plants to head out before full growth was attained. Present prospects point to a crop of 9,680,000 bushels of oats to be harvested in North Carolina for grain. This is 17 percent less than the 11,623,000 bushels harvested in 1947, but is larger than the 10-year average of 7,593,000 bushels.

BARLEY PROSPECTS POOR

A production of 740,000 bushels of barley was in prospect for the state on June 1. This is 240,000 bushels or 24% less than the 980,000 bushels harvested last year. The state's barley crop appears to have suffered more than any other small grain as a result of late seeding and unfavorable weather conditions. Prospects are very poor in the heavy producing areas.

Stocks of old crop barley on Tar Heel farms totaled 108,000 bushels on June 1. This is 74% larger than the 62,000 bushels held on farms June 1, 1947.

GENERAL SITUATION IMPROVED

June 1 reports from North Carolina Crop Reporters indicate another good crop year is in prospect. Generous late May rains have provided ample soil moisture supplies for the time being.

Tar Heel farmers have about completed the planting of corn, tobacco, cotton and other spring sown crops. Re-planting of some of these crops was necessary but this requirement generally was no greater than usual. More than the normal proportion of corn acreage had to be re-planted in some coastal localities.

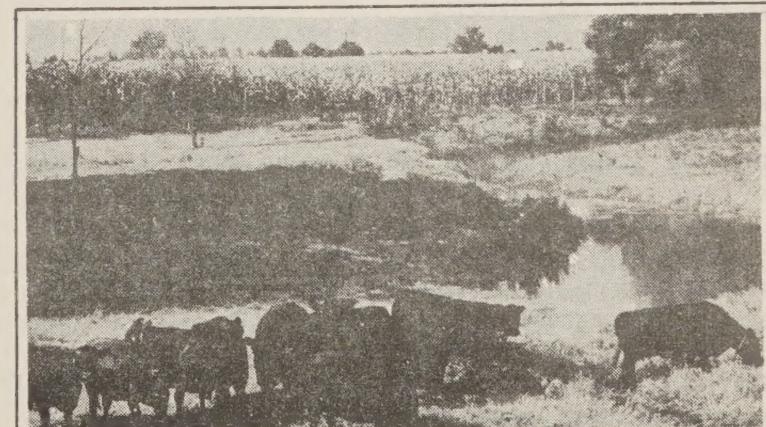
While total production of small grain will be materially less than last year, due to a short acreage, average yields promise to be generally good. June 1 condition reports indicate an average wheat yield of 17.0 bushels per acre--equal to the previous record. A rye yield equal to the record 14.0 bushels harvested in 1947 is promised by June 1 condition. Oats and barley yields are expected to be less than last year's high yields, but should be about average.

The condition of all hay was reported as 81 percent of normal, 3 points above the condition on the same date last year. Reported conditions in mountain areas were lower than for any other section, reflecting the dry conditions which existed prior to the end of the month.

Fruit prospects vary considerably over the state. Peach prospects are for a total production of 42 percent below the 1947 crop. June 1 prospects are for a pear crop, 29 percent below last year's production.

Pastures were benefited greatly by recent rains. The condition of pasture grasses on June 1 was 74 percent of normal--which is below average for this date.

GOOD PASTURES REDUCE FEED COSTS



RYE CROP IMPROVES

June 1 indications point to a yield of 14 bushels, which is the same as the 1947 yield, but 3.9 bushels larger than the 10-year average. If this yield materializes, North Carolina farmers will harvest 322,000 bushels of rye this summer. This would be 4%, or 14,000 bushels smaller than the 1947 crop and 100,000 bushels or 24% less than the 10-year average production. A decrease in acreage is responsible for the smaller crop.

Holdings of old crop rye on North Carolina farms on June 1 totaled 24,000 bushels, exactly twice as much as was held on farms June 1, 1947.

OUTLOOK FOR PEACH CROP POOR

June 1 prospects indicate a production of 1,686,000 bushels of peaches in North Carolina this year. This is 1,219,000 bushels or 42% smaller than the 2,905,000 bushels harvested in 1947 and 447,000 bushels below the 10-year average.

Peach crop prospects vary considerably from area to area. Late spring freeze damage was extremely heavy in mountain areas. In other areas damage ranged from "none" to 100 percent loss. In the heavy producing sandhill counties freeze damage varied widely. In the section between Hamlet and Aberdeen and south of Ellerbe production prospects are very poor. Conditions in the other areas range from fair to good. For the most part, damage from insects has been controlled, however, a high proportion of damaged peaches is noted in some orchards and there are some reports of drops resulting from Curculio stings.

IRISH POTATO CROP GOOD

Production of North Carolina's commercial Irish potato crop was estimated at 5,624,000 bushels as of June 1, or 296,000 bushels more than a month ago. This is 14 percent above the 1947 crop and 4 percent more than the 1937-46 average production. Yield indications continue to point to 190 bushels, or 114 one-hundred pound bags per acre. Peak movement was reached in the Tabor City section and Carteret County the last week of May. Light digging began in Beaufort, Pamlico, Tyrrell and Currituck counties, the week of May 24-29 but heavy to peak movement from these areas will not occur until near mid-June. Heavy movement will occur from other areas about the same time. Recent rains were beneficial to tuber development but accelerated blight damage and interfered with digging.

The potato crop in California estimated at 30,810,000 bushels is 18 percent larger than that of a year ago and 95 percent larger than the 10-year average production. Potato harvest in Kern county, California, will be at the peak during the next two or three weeks with heavy shipments continuing from other areas of the state as the season advances. Harvest of the southern Alabama crop was about complete on June 1. The early potato crop in Virginia is expected to amount to about 7,482,000 bushels compared with 6,210,000 bushels last year and the average of 6,046,000 bushels. Harvest of the Eastern-Shore, Virginia crop was expected to begin the week of June 7 and reach volume movement near mid-June.

OTHER TRUCK CROPS

The state's spring snap bean crop will produce about 408,000 bushels this year compared with 434,000 last year and the 10-year average of 403,000. The 5,100 acres for this year's harvest is about the same as a year ago. Dry weather during May reduced yields of early plantings but recent rains improved prospects of the late acreage.

The cucumber crop for fresh market is indicated as 629,000 bushels from the 7,400 acres for harvest. This compares with 592,000 bushels harvested last year from 7,400 acres. Light movement of cucumbers which began about June 1 was expected to become general around June 10.

MILK PRODUCTION CONTINUES UP

Milk cows on North Carolina farms produced 145 million pounds of milk during May. This increase of 13 million pounds or about 2 percent more than April is due primarily to a seasonal higher production per cow. The 358,000 milk cows on farms during May is the same as April. Average milk production per cow in herds was 405 pounds in May, 370 pounds in April and 330 pounds in March. In May 1947, there were 359,000 milk cows on farms, but production was 9 million pounds less than May 1948. The average production per cow in May 1947 was 396 pounds.

EGG PRODUCTION SEASONALLY LOWER

Hens on North Carolina farms laid 110 million eggs during May. This is 12 million eggs less than the number laid during the preceding month and 9 million below the May 1947 production. Although the April to May decline is in line with the seasonal downward trend in egg production, fewer layers on farms also contributed to the lower production. There were about 6,676,000 layers on farms during May compared with 7,001,000 a month earlier and 7,424,000 in May 1947. The rate of lay averaged 16.55 eggs per hen compared with 17.46 in April and 16.6 during May last year.

BABY CHICK PRODUCTION SLIGHTLY HIGHER

North Carolina Commercial Hatcheries produced 6,507,000 chicks during April, about 1 percent more than they hatched during the same month last year and 2 percent more than the 1942-46 average. Production for the first four months of 1948 totaled 18,003,000 chicks. This was 534,000 chicks or 3 percent less than the output for the same period in 1947. The demand for chicks for broiler production was very strong during April and the demand for chicks for flock replacements showed some improvement.

CHICK PLACEMENT IN CHATHAM BROILER AREA HIGH

Placement of chicks with commercial broiler producers in the Chatham Area during May totaled about 626,000 head, the highest for any month this year. During the week ending May 29 dealers and hatcheries placed 238,000 chicks with producers in the area, compared with 252,000 placed during the week ending May 22--the largest number placed during any one week this year.

FEED PRICES

Prices paid for high protein and grain by-products feeds by North Carolina farmers on May 15 reflected little change compared with a month earlier. Middlings, the only feed showing an increase in price, rose from \$4.60 per hundred weight in April to \$4.65 in May. Corn meal, 16 percent protein mixed dairy feed, and scratch grain each dropped 10 cents per hundred weight during the month.

Mixed dairy feed of 18 percent protein content dropped 5 cents. Other feeds, including bran, 20 percent protein mixed dairy feed, laying mash and tankage, showed no change during the month.

FEED PRICES PAID BY FARMERS MAY 15, 1948 WITH COMPARISONS

FEED PER HUNDRED WEIGHT	NORTH CAROLINA		UNITED STATES	
	APR. 15 1948	MAY 15 1948	APR. 15 1948	MAY 15 1948
- DOLLARS -				
BRAN.....	4.45	4.45	4.21	4.27
MIDDLING.....	4.60	4.65	4.41	4.44
CORN MEAL.....	5.90	5.80	5.15	5.09
COTTONSEED MEAL.....	4.65	4.60	5.07	5.03
MIXED DAIRY FEED:				
16% PROTEIN.....	4.45	4.35	4.49	4.49
18% PROTEIN.....	4.85	4.80	4.71	4.72
20% PROTEIN.....	4.90	4.90	4.79	4.82
LAYING MASH.....	5.80	5.80	5.48	5.44
SCRATCH FEED.....	5.60	5.50	5.34	5.29
TANKAGE.....	6.80	6.80	6.58	6.11

PRICES RECEIVED BY NORTH CAROLINA FARMERS

Major changes in prices received by North Carolina farmers during mid-May were reflected chiefly among meat animals. Compared with a month earlier, farmers received considerably higher prices for beef cattle, veal calves, sheep and lambs in May. Hogs showed a slight drop of 10 cents per hundred pounds during the month.

Prices received for most grains showed little change during the month; however, cowpeas and soybeans were up 50 and 20 cents, respectively, per bushel.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS MAY 15, 1948 WITH COMPARISONS

COMMODITY	UNIT	NORTH CAROLINA		U. S.
		APR. 15 1948	MAY 15 1948	MAY 15 1948
- DOLLARS -				
CORN.....	BU.	1.93	1.96	2.16
WHEAT.....	BU.	2.53	2.50	2.22
OATS.....	BU.	1.29	1.25	1.12
BARLEY.....	BU.	1.75	1.80	1.75
RYE.....	BU.	2.41	2.50	2.12
SOYBEANS.....	BU.	3.20	3.40	3.74
COWPEAS.....	BU.	5.25	5.70	5.29
PEANUTS.....	LB.	.11	.11	.104
COTTON.....	LB.	.351	.357	.353
COTTONSEED.....	TON	80.00	80.00	90.70
WOOL.....	LB.	.47	.48	.456
HOGS.....	CWT.	19.80	19.70	19.60
BEEF CATTLE.....	CWT.	18.00	18.90	23.70
VEAL CALVES.....	CWT.	23.00	23.50	25.30
SHEEP.....	CWT.	9.60	10.10	10.50
LAMBS.....	CWT.	20.60	21.90	23.40
CHICKENS.....	LB.	.295	.30	.285
EGGS.....	DOZ.	.39	.42	.415
MILK: WHOLESALE.....	CWT.	5.40	5.35	4.59
RETAIL.....	QT.	.196	.198	.183
BUTTER.....	LB.	.60	.58	.669
BUTTERFAT.....	LB.	.62	.62	.836
HAY, ALL LOOSE.....	TON	32.40	31.00	18.30
HAY, ALL BALED.....	TON	35.30	34.20	23.10
POTATOES.....	BU.	2.05	2.05	1.96
SWEET POTATOES.....	BU.	2.30	2.35	2.44
APPLES, COMM'L.....	BU.	2.50	2.50	1.91
LESPEDAZA SEED.....	CWT.	15.20	15.20	13.20
KOREAN.....	CWT.	12.00	12.00	-
KOBE.....	CWT.	18.00	18.00	-
COM. AND TENN 76.....	CWT.	22.50	22.50	-
SERICEA.....	CWT.	23.00	23.00	-

COMPARISON OF U. S. PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS AND PARITY PRICES

COMMODITY	PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS		PARITY OR COMPARABLE PRICES		ACTUAL PRICES AS PERCENTAGE OF PARITY	
	APR. 15 1948	MAY 15 1948	APR. 15 1948	MAY 15 1948	APR. 15 1948	MAY 15 1948
- DOLLARS -						
COTTON, PER LB.	.341	.353	.309	.310	110	114
WHEAT, PER BU.	2.29	2.22	2.20	2.21	104	100
CORN, PER BU..	2.19	2.16	1.60	1.60	137	135
OATS, PER BU..	1.19	1.12	.994	.998	120	112
BARLEY, PER BU.	1.85	1.75	1.54	1.55	-	-
RYE, PER BU...	2.17	2.12	1.79	1.80	-	-
BEEF CATTLE, PER CWT....	21.90	23.70	13.50	13.60	162	174
HOGS, PER CWT..	20.60	19.60	18.10	18.20	114	108
LAMBS, PER CWT.	21.10	23.40	14.60	14.70	145	159
CHICKENS, PER LB.....	.28	.285	.284	.285	99	100
EGGS, PER DOZ.	.426	.415	.449	.463	95	90
MILK, (WHSE.) PER. CWT...	4.69	4.59	3.73	3.60	126	128

UNITED STATES' PRICES

A 1 point rise in the index of prices paid by farmers, including interest and taxes, brought parity prices in mid-May to a level only slightly below the record high of January 15. This index, at 250, is now 2½ times its 1910-14 average, although only 10 percent above a year ago.

During the month ended May 15 the index of prices received by farmers declined 2 points.

NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS
(N. C. PRICES RECEIVED 1909-14 - 100 PERCENT)

COMMODITY	APR. 15 1948	MAY 15 1948	MAY 15 1948	MAY 15 1948	MAY 15 1948
	N. C. INDEX NUMBERS				
ALL FARM PRODUCTS....	270	274	260	209	187
COTTON & COTTONSEED..	284	288	272	201	175
GRAIN.....	223	224	216	172	157
MEAT ANIMALS.....	354	364	321	238	225
POULTRY.....	218	230	214	197	198
DAIRY PRODUCTS.....	237	234	219	177	172
MISCELLANEOUS.....	250	252	247	249	220
ratio of prices received to paid...	108	110	114	113	108
U. S. INDEX NUMBERS					
PRICES RECEIVED.....	291	289	272	211	200
PRICES PAID.	249	250	229	185	173
INTEREST AND TAXES.					
ratio of prices received to paid...	117	116	119	114	116

* Ratio of N. C. prices received to U. S. paid.

MAY PRICE INDEX

The "All Farm Products" index of prices received by North Carolina farmers in mid-May rose to 274 percent of the 1909-14 average. This index is 4 points above the index of a month earlier and 14 points above that of a year ago. Except for dairy products, indexes for all individual groups of commodities made gains over those of the previous month. Due to a noticeable decline in wholesale prices received for milk, the dairy products index dropped from 237 in April to 234 in May.

The poultry index made the greatest gain during the month, jumping from 218 in April to 230 in May. This increase was caused primarily by a rise of 3 cents per dozen received for eggs. Rising from 354 a month earlier to 364 in May, the meat animal index reflected a noticeable increase of 10 points during the month.

FARM REPORT

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JUNE 1948

FARM REPORT

PAGE 4

NORTH CAROLINA CROP REPORT, JUNE 1, 1948

CROPS	CONDITION % OF NORMAL		YIELD PER ACRE		PRODUCTION (000)		
	1947	1948	1947	1948	1937-46 AVERAGE	1947	1948
WINTER WHEAT, BU...	84	81	17.0	17.0	6,567	8,449	6,987
RYE, BU.....	85	86	14.0	14.0	422	336	322
OATS, BU.....	1/	78	78	-	7,593	11,623	9,680
BARLEY, BU.....	1/	83	76	-	665	980	740
ALL HAY.....	77	81	-	-	-	-	-
CLOVER-TIM.HAY....	76	70	-	-	-	-	-
ALFALFA HAY.....	83	81	-	-	-	-	-
PASTURE.....	76	74	-	-	-	-	-
ALL PEACHES, BU...	81	43	-	-	2,905	1,686	-
PEARS, BU.....	65	38	-	-	-	298	213
EARLY POTATOES, BU	78	90	-	-	-	-	-
UNITED STATES CROPS							
WINTER WHEAT, BU...	-	-	19.5	16.7	688,606	1,067,970	877,230
SPRING WHEAT, BU. 1/	84	85	-	-	254,017	296,949	315,195
RYE, BU.....	-	-	12.8	11.9	37,398	25,977	24,316
OATS, BU.....	1/	80	84	-	1,231,814	1,215,970	1,357,210
BARLEY, BU.....	1/	83	83	-	298,811	279,182	290,307
ALL HAY.....	87	83	-	-	-	-	-
PASTURE.....	88	82	-	-	-	-	-
ALL PEACHES, BU. 2/	-	-	-	-	66,725	82,603	68,254
PEARS, BU.....	-	-	-	-	30,222	35,312	27,599
EARLY POTATOES, BU.....	3/	78	82	-	-	-	-

NOTES: 1/ Based on prospective planted acreage reported in March.
2/ For some states, in certain years, production includes some quantities unharvested on account of market conditions.
3/ All early potatoes includes all states except Missouri and Kansas.

WEATHER SUMMARY FOR MAY

Temperatures for the state were near or slightly above normal. The first week was rather warm with high afternoon readings. A cool outbreak on the 7th and 8th caused temperatures to go down in the 40s throughout the state with several readings in the 30s reported in the mountain section.

Rainfall was above normal in most sections, but over a small area in the northwest and along the central coast, there was a rather serious deficiency. In fact, until the general rains near the end of the month, some sections in the mountain counties were nearing drought conditions and forest fires raged in some of the wood lands. In the south-central area some rather heavy rains occurred during the latter part of the month. Whiteville reported a 24 hour amount of 3.74 inches on the 27th following a 2 inch rain the day before.

Milk production in the last half of the year will be somewhat below the same six months of 1947. With fluid milk and cream consumption holding up, less will go into manufactured dairy products

Sweetpotatoes will be hard to get in northern markets from now until late July and early August when the new crop will begin to move.

NORTH CAROLINA INCHES OF RAINFALL DURING MAY, 1948

